

1. (currently amended) A method for distributing software programs

comprising:

transmitting a plurality of software programs from a networked server computer to a remote software dispensing device;

storing said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing device;

in response to a user request, displaying a directory of said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing device;

in response to a software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program, wherein a user can manipulate said selected software program;

in response to a said software selection by a user, accepting payment from said user for a selected software program; and

in response to said payment, communicating an instantiation of said selected software program from said software dispensing device to a portable computer system of said user.

2. (cancelled) A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising:

in response to said software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program.

3. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said software dispensing device is a computer system comprising:
 - a processor coupled to a bus;
 - a memory coupled to said bus;
 - a display screen coupled to said bus; and
 - a communication unit coupled to said bus and for communicating with a portable computer system of said user.
4. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said directory comprises a name, description and price for each of said plurality of software programs.
5. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said transferring is performed wirelessly.
6. (original) A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said transferring is performed using Bluetooth communication.
7. (original) A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said transferring is performed using infrared communication.

8. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said portable computer system of said user is a personal digital assistant (PDA).
9. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising backing up information from said portable computer system of said user onto said software dispensing device.
10. (original) A method as described in Claim 9 further comprising restoring said information from said software dispensing device onto a replacement portable computer system of said user.
11. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising archiving inactive software programs from said portable computer system of said user onto said software dispensing device.
12. (currently amended) A method for distributing software programs comprising:
 - transmitting a plurality of software programs from a networked server computer to a remote software dispensing kiosk;
 - storing said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing kiosk;

in response to a user request, displaying a directory of said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing kiosk;

in response to a software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program, wherein a user can manipulate said selected software program;

in response to a software selection by a user, accepting payment from said user for a selected software program; and

in response to said payment, transferring an instantiation of said selected software program to a hand held computer system of said user.

13. (cancelled) A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising:
in response to said software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing kiosk, a hand held computer system executing said selected software program.

14. (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said software dispensing kiosk is a computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a bus;
a memory coupled to said bus;
a display screen coupled to said bus; and
a communication unit coupled to said bus and for communicating with said hand held computer system of said user.

15. (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said directory comprises a name, description and price for each of said plurality of software programs.
16. (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said transferring is performed wirelessly.
17. (original) A method as described in Claim 16 wherein said transferring is performed using Bluetooth communication.
18. (original) A method as described in Claim 16 wherein said transferring is performed using infrared communication.
19. (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said hand held computer system of said user is a personal digital assistant (PDA).
20. (original) A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising backing up information from said hand held computer system of said user onto said software dispensing kiosk.

21. (original) A method as described in Claim 20 further comprising restoring said information from said software dispensing kiosk onto a replacement hand held computer system of said user.

22. (original) A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising archiving inactive software programs from said hand held computer system of said user onto said software dispensing kiosk.

23. (currently amended) A network system for distributing software programs comprising:

a networked server for receiving and storing software programs from software developers;

a remotely located software dispensing kiosk networked with said server and for receiving and storing software programs from said networked server;

in response to a user request, said software dispensing kiosk for displaying a directory of said software programs;

in response to a software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program, wherein a user can manipulate said selected software program;

in response to a software selection by a user, said software dispensing kiosk also for accepting payment from said user for a selected software program; and

in response to said payment, said software dispensing kiosk for communicating an instantiation of said selected software program to a portable computer system of said user.

24. (cancelled)) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein, in response to said software selection, said software dispensing kiosk also for emulating a portable computer system executing said selected software program.

25. (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said software dispensing kiosk comprises:

- a processor coupled to a bus;
- a memory coupled to said bus;
- a display screen coupled to said bus; and
- a communication unit coupled to said bus and for communicating with said portable computer system of said user.

26. (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said directory comprises a name, description and price for each of said software programs offered by said software dispensing kiosk.

27. (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said portable computer system of said user is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

28. (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said software dispensing kiosk is also for backing up information from said portable computer system.

29. (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said software dispensing kiosk is also for archiving inactive software programs from said portable computer system.